No.

324
18/5/16

Shanghai Municipal Council.

POLICE FORCE.
(DETECTIVE BRANCH.)

May 17th 1916.

Sir,

At 2 p.m. 14th instant some fifty Chinese held a meeting in the Palace Hotel to discuss the attitude which they should take up in connection with conference, which Feng Kuo Chang has proposed to hold in Nanking. Those present at the meeting included representatives of twenty two provinces. Tong Shao Yi 唐紹儀 acted as chairman and speeches were made by Tong Hua Lung 陶花龍 Tan Yion Kan 譚延闿 Chang Hsih 張錫 and others. As a result of the speeches and the discussion which followed it was decided to send a letter to Feng Kuo Chang 馮国璋 signed by the provincial representatives. The letter refers to the treason of the President in trying to make himself Emperor and goes on to say that nothing less than Yuan's retirement will solve the problems with which China is confronted at the present time. It suggests that Li Yuan Hung act temporarily as president after the abdication of Yuan Shih Kai. The letter also accuses the President of having caused the present financial crisis through collecting all avaiable funds for his own private purposes. The meeting which was very orderly terminated at 6 p.m. The hall in which it took place was engaged by the Tsung Wha Sing Pao (中華新报).

There is no truth in the reports that the troops at Woosung are discontent because they receive their wages in notes on 12th inst. As a matter of fact they were paid in silver.

With regard to yesterday's report to the effect that General Yang had received instructions to dispense with the service of supernumeraries, the night workmen in the Arsenal were discharged yesterday.

The breach blocks have been replaced in most of the guns at Woosung.

It is reported that the rebels in Shanghai are prepared to promise Feng Kuo Chang not to cause further trouble in this province on the following condition:- All rebels at present in custody to be detained but not executed and no further arrests of rebels be made.

Ten armed soldiers arrived here from Nanking this morning and went to the Arsenal by way of Chapei and the Soochow Creek.

No

C. I. D. No. 334 18/5/16

Shanghai Municipal Council.

POLICE FORCE,
(DETECTIVE BRANCH.)

191

2

At about 11 p.m. on May 8th a steam launch which came from the direction of Shanghai went close to the Chinese gunboat Cha De 策電 anchored at Woosung. Those on board the launch were challenged by the gunboat but they failed to stop or give the countersign and so they were fired at with rifles. The launch then turned round and went Shanghai wards but returned in about two minutes passing close to the gunboat Hoo Wei 虎威. This gunboat also challenged and failing to get a reply opened fire on the launch which in turning came within range of the soldiers on shore at the forts who also fired a number of shots. The launch steamed away towards Shanghai and did not return.

The Chinese authorities regard this as an attempt to effect a repetition of the incident which occurred in the beginning of the month when six Japanese were arrested whilst attempting to board from a steam tug the gunboat Chia De 嘉德 and subsequently handed over to their Consul by the Chinese Authorities.

Your Obedient Servant,

William Armstrong

Chief Detective Inspector.

for 17/5

Captain Superintendent of Police.

am 17/5

C. I. O.
I. O. REG
No. 234
Date 18/5/16

Eastern Times.
16-5-16.

After the newspapers had published the telegram despatched by Feng Kuo Chang, the Chiangchun of Kiangsu, to the authorities of the seventeen provinces who are still loyal to the Central Government, giving his opinion regarding the general situation of China, the gentry and merchants of these provinces elected prominent persons as their representatives. These representatives held a meeting in the Palace Hotel on the 14th instant. The meeting was opened at 2 p.m. and closed at 6 p.m. Messrs Tang Shao Yi, Tan Yi Kai 譚延闓, Chang Chi 張继 and Tong Hua Loong 湯化龍 were present. They discussed the telegram and decided to make an announcement for the information of the public and address a letter to Feng Kuo Chang.

TELEGRAM-S.M.P.
I. O.
16 MAY 1916